

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks Examiner Hutton for his careful attention to this application, especially the corrections noted in the specification and drawings. Many examiners do not take this kind of time and effort, and it is sincerely appreciated by counsel (who wrote the application). Applicant believes that specification, drawings and claims have been placed in conditions for allowance, as explained below.

The rejection is based on Jennings, Special Edition Using Microsoft Access 2000 ("Jennings"). Jennings is a software user manual for Microsoft's Access 2000 application program. As the examiner notes in the Office Action, a properly trained Access user could create the kind of forms, table and database structure described in the present application and fill in the forms as needed. The inventive aspect of the Forms.com invention, however, is the automation of this process such that an untrained user can obtain similar (actually better from a database structure standpoint) results without having to learn the Access user protocol. The claims have been amended to highlight this aspect of the invention, as shown below with respect to Claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling forms, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a form from a form publisher comprising one or more data submission fields configured to receive user input;
 - automatically processing the form to identify the data submission fields;
 - automatically correlating each data field to a database field type supported by a database application;
 - automatically creating one or more database tables or other database structures in the database application corresponding to the form, the structure comprising a storage element corresponding to each data submission field;
 - automatically publishing the form to receive form submissions comprising data entries into the data submission fields;
 - receiving one or more form submissions; and
 - entering the data entries of the form submissions into the corresponding storage elements of the database.

As a result, Forms.com users, even if they are competent Access users, benefit by the ability to make the forms, table and database structures more easily and quickly. Forms.com users also benefit from the application service aspect of the system, which allows the users to create any number of forms, table and database structures without

having to purchase, maintain or launch a database application program like Access, which is a non-trivial task, particularly for children and "older generation" users. This allows the users to create the structures with any thin client editor such as an Internet browser, and store the created structures on a more robust host computer system. For a large multi-user client, such as a school system, the savings in software acquisition, database storage, and system maintenance can be quite significant and important (notwithstanding the unfortunate legal doctrine established by College Savings Bank). The Examiner should be aware that the Forms.com system has experienced significant commercial success in environments in which the users, such as school children, benefit from these advantages and "get up and running" almost immediately with the Forms.com system.

Thus, the Forms.com automatic forms, table and database system results in the benefits described above, which are not shown or suggested in Jennings, and in fact overcomes significant shortcomings of an Access-type database creation system, such as that described in Jennings. Therefore, Jennings does not show every feature of the claimed invention (i.e., automatic processing steps), does not suggest the missing elements, and therefore cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As a result, this reference cannot be used to support a rejection of the claims of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 103. MPEP § 2143.03.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the preceding remarks are completely responsive to the Official Action mailed August 9, 2004, and that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call Mike Mehrman at (404) 497-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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